

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 1**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-021**  
**DATE: March 29, 2004 Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Flooding** – induced by heavy rains on frozen ground and ice-packed drains.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: See Major Actions, number six, of this report.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies responding to the emergency included law enforcement, city and county administrative offices, city, county and township public works departments, communications centers and emergency management offices.

STATE: The Governor and his Chief of Staff, the Adjutant General, the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT), the N.D. Highway Patrol (HP), the State Water Commission (SWC), the N.D. National Guard and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management/State Radio Communications have been involved with monitoring and information exchange..

FEDERAL: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have been notified regarding flooding conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: None has been reported to the State Operations Center (SOC) at this time.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Dispatch Center of the N.D. Division of Emergency Management has been monitoring conditions on a 24-hour basis. The State Operations Center (SOC) was open during critical times on Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28. HP, DOT and SWC have provided response assistance.

The Goose and the Forest Rivers continue to rise from recent rains and snowmelt runoff. Flood warnings issued by the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) remain in effect for areas rivers in the Red River Basin. Flood warnings for the Goose River indicate minor flooding is occurring with moderate flooding forecasted. The Goose River at Hillsboro measured 11.19 feet at 7:17 a.m., Monday, March 29. The river is expected

to crest between 13 to 14 feet by this evening or Tuesday, March 30. At 13 feet, the park in Hillsboro starts to at 14 feet; a residential area north of Hillsboro begins to flood. A flood warning for the Forest River, including the Minto area, indicates moderate flooding is occurring, inundating secondary roads. The river measured 8.62 feet; the river was expected to crest by nine to 10 feet by today. Between eight and 10 feet, the bridge upstream from the gage house floods and the river may bypass Minot to the south, flowing into Lake Ardock.

On March 29, the NWS issued a flood warning for the Turtle River at Manvel. The maximum stage forecast is 18 to 19 feet; no observed stage was available.

### **Barnes County**

On March 28, the Barnes County Emergency Manager reported releases from the Baldhill Dam have been at 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) for most of the winter. On Friday, March 26, releases were increased to 150 cfs. On Saturday, March 27, releases were increased to 1,200 cfs. On Sunday morning, March 28, releases were increased to 2,000 cfs. On Sunday afternoon, March 28, releases were increased to 2,400 cfs. The Dam Manager reported there is a lot of water coming in at Baldhill Creek and Cooperstown. The manager reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Office in Minneapolis would be conducting a hydrologic analysis this afternoon. The Dam Manager indicated that he didn't think there would be a significant problem downstream due to lack of precipitation and snow pack downstream.

### **Cavalier County**

On March 28, the County Emergency Manager reported that weekend rains (March 27 and 28) combined with snow melts created ponding in several city blocks of Langdon in the northern part of town. One housing development and nearby family dwellings account for 25-30 residents that are adversely affected by the flooding. A car parked by a unit in a four-plex had water on the lower portion of the door. Langdon High School is approximately a block west of the flooded area but does not appear to be in danger. A Cavalier County Commissioner reported water dangerously close to road tops in several locations. The drains appear to be opening slowly. However, there is a potential for problems.

### **Dickey County**

On March 28, the Dickey County Sheriff reported that County Road 4 is washed out. Flooding has been reported in the Merricourt area.

### **Foster County**

On March 27, it was reported that numerous county roads are flooded.

### **Grand Forks County**

On March 28, the County Emergency Manager reported flooded roads including 43<sup>rd</sup> Street north of County Road 4, ND Highway 32 north of Highway 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue west of Reynolds, and County Road 20 at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The railroad tracks and roadway 2 miles west of Arvilla on County Road 4 are also washed out. Portions of County Road 23 west and south of Northwood and County Road 2 west of Larimore and one mile north

of Johnstown are under water. On County Road 20, two-three foot chunks of ice are being removed from a portion of the gravel road near Kempton to allow the water to flow. There was a report that an area west of Inkster received 2 ½ inches of rain. The Gilby Fire Department has been working at the Midway School. Water is within one foot of the school and is affecting the sewage system. It has been reported that there will be no school at Midway on March 29, but that has not been confirmed. The city of Gilby is experiencing sewage problems and a report of one basement so far in Gilby is full of water.

### **Griggs County**

On March 27, it was reported that Highway 32 at the Aneta turnoff has water over the roadway. Highway 32 5-5 ½ miles south of Aneta has water going over the road causing hazardous conditions.

### **Nelson County**

On March 28, the County Emergency Manager reported that the city of Michigan is planning to issue an Emergency Declaration due to flooding. The lift station is in jeopardy of being flooded. There have been reports of isolated basement flooding in a few homes. The city park is flooded. Numerous roads are flooded. No travel was advised in rural areas within the county on 3/27/04 due to water over the roads.

### **Pembina County**

On March 27, at 2:30 pm, the County Emergency Manager reported that the ditches are full in areas. There is still snow pack and ice and the culverts are not all open.

At 10:30 p.m., the County Emergency Manager reported that residents are experiencing water in basements. Water is over the following secondary roads: Cavalier Township: 97 St NE two miles North of Cenex Station near junction of 97 ST and 139 AV NE – and junction of 98 ST NE and 140 AV NE –roads are closed. Crystal Township: junction of 133 AV and 84 ST NE; 3 mile section of 132 AV NE south of junction of 132 AV and 81<sup>st</sup> NE; 4 miles of 136 AV NE south of Highway 66; 6 miles (2 N and 4 S of Highway 66) of 137 AV NE – roads closed. LaMoure Township: water of road by Henry Klindt residence at junction of 128 AV NE and 97 ST NE – road closed. Water is over the following paved county road and is closed: County 12 –water inundation- road closed from junction of County 3 and County 12 for 3 mile stretch.

The following cities have operations currently ongoing: Neché: pumping streets on south end of town, protecting the lift station on south end of town. Pembina: pumping water out of low lying areas. One plugged culvert was opened. Limited sandbagging for homeowners is occurring. St. Thomas: covering sanitary sewers with sandbags- watching a very full coulee on edge of town that will flood streets should it overtop. Workers are filling some sandbags and placing (about 100) near C and R Ventures, a business near the coulee. Sand and sandbags are enroute to a residence at this time ½ mile south of St. Thomas on Highway 81, which is affected by that same coulee. Drayton: have some water on 3<sup>rd</sup> ST on north end. They have some water inside the dikes on the dry side they will pump out for home's safety.

Walhalla: Fire department is currently assessing roads in area of coverage and reporting problems to Sheriff's Office. One road about one mile south of Hensel may be cut, situation is being assessed – local farmer has cattle that are standing in water. One individual, located in Beulieu township on 132 AV NE about 1 mile north of Highway 5 has a home threatened by a coulee backing up due to ice and debris under a bridge. The contractor got to the site and the water broke through, the culverts are open – things are running well. However the coulee is full, the water is only about 2.5 feet underneath the bridge. One individual called from the very southern edge of the county along COUNTY 12 that has water backing up to their home. They are checking if there is a plugged culvert, but may need public works assistance.

On March 28, at 12:15 p.m., The County Emergency Manager reported that water is over the following secondary roads in addition to the ones previously reported on 3/27/04: Felson Township: 138 AV NE 3 miles north of Highway 1 and 140 Av NE located 1 mile west and .75 mile north of Junction of ½. Residences located in section 32 are isolated. A driveway is inundated in section 19. Crystal Township: A residence is isolated in Section 11. Road is closed by it at 137 AV NE. Beaulieu Township: In unincorporated town of Concrete, roads are inundated: 127 AV NE 1 mile S of concrete, ½ mile east, ½ mile NB of Concrete – private drive with water over it. Park Township: One individual lost their basement located in section 36 on 84 ST NE. Water is over the following paved roads and is closed (in addition to ones previously reported on 3/27/07): Highway 81 near Glasston road is closed due to water flowing over it. The following cities have operations currently ongoing (in addition to ones previously reported on 3/27/04): Neché: Fire department was aiding in pumping operation last night. Unincorporated town of Glasston: One household sandbagged. Cavalier: sandbagged the Lutheran Church early this morning. Crystal: The park is currently flooded as well as streets near the park area. Sandbagging operations are ongoing at the school at this time. Kart Creek is out of its banks. Sand and sandbags are being delivered to Crystal as needed. The NWS indicates that the Pembina River at Walhalla should crest today at 6:00 p.m. at 12.5 feet, and is expected to crest at 19 feet in Neche on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. Temperatures are expected to be at freezing levels tomorrow. No significant precipitation expected today or tomorrow. Crystal is evacuating several homes near the Kart Creek. The Social Service Director is locating alternate shelter for several families. The Pembina River is running full and open at this time in Walhalla. There is a very large ice jam in the Leroy Area that is being investigated that could cause backup flooding problems.

Received Pembina County Emergency Declaration, dated 3/28/04.

At 3:06 p.m., the County Emergency Manager reported that there is no water or electricity in the city of Crystal. Water continues to rise within the city. The Social Service Director is arranging for a couple of portable toilets to be delivered to the fire hall in Crystal. The emergency manager requested sandbags from the Cavalier Air Force Station. A request for volunteer sandbaggers is going out over the two radio stations. The city of Bathgate is concerned about a low lying area in the dike. They will sandbag that area. Sand is currently enroute to Bathgate.

At 4:35 p.m., the County Emergency Manager reported that the water in Felson Township appears to be down slightly. However, they are concerned about the Pembina River. The water is flowing heavy in Walhalla but froze by LeRoy. Large ice jams are located near LeRoy. The water is over the road by the O'Keefe bridge on the Pembina River at 132 AV NE. A County Commissioner is enroute to assess the area. Water continues to rise in Crystal. Ten volunteers from CAFS arrived in Crystal. House to house sandbagging in the area of town near the park is occurring. Sandbagging is taking place at a residence in Glasston. The County Emergency Manager reported that all county, township and state barricades are in use and they are attempting to activate their mutual aid with Cavalier County for barricades. Approximately 10 firemen from Pembina County are on standby for sandbagging needs.

### **Steele County**

On March 27, it was reported that Highway 32 ¼ mile north of Finley had water over the road. Highway 32 7 miles south of Finley had water over the road. Highway 67 had water over the roads. No travel was advised within the county on March 27. Luverne Road had water over the road. Highway 200 9 miles east of Finley had water over the road.

On March 28, the Steele County Sheriff reported that the rain has stopped and the water is receding. Highway 200 is open and they are checking Highway 32. Numerous county and township roads continue to be flooded.

### **Stutsman County**

On March 27, the Stutsman County Emergency Manager reported that the city of Jamestown received approximately 2 inches of rain, some of which was very heavy. There have been no reports of damage so far from anywhere within the county.

### **Walsh County**

On March 28, the County Emergency Manager reported that at approximately 6 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, 2004, rain began falling over Walsh County lasting until around 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 28, 2004. Rain fall amounts range from 1.5" in the east to 3" in the west with isolated areas of 3.5". This moisture along with rapid melt and frozen ground conditions caused overland flooding conditions throughout the county. As of noon today (3/28) an estimated 40 miles of county and township roads have been closed due to water over the roadway. In addition State Highway 17, 18, and 32 all have water on the roadway and US Highway 81 in Minto is closed due to water. Sand and sandbags have been delivered to approximately two dozen farmsteads along with the community of Minto. Estimated numbers show approximately 10 homes in Park River have been impacted by the flooding conditions last night, approximately a dozen farmsteads with water next to the house and in the basement, and approximately 25 homes stand to be impacted by the Forest River, within the city of Minto, over the next 24 hours. Last night a farmer west of Fordville, ND had to evacuate his feedlot and calving area due to back up of the Forest River caused by an ice jam on State Highway 32. Damage reports and impacted area include most all areas of the county from Hoople to Fordville and from Lankin to the Red River. The

NWS Grand Forks has forecasted a crest of 13.5 feet for Grafton on Tuesday Morning and a crest of 8.5 feet for Minto on Tuesday afternoon. Additional rural areas are being impacted as water moves from west to east throughout the county. Representatives of the Mennonite Disaster Services have volunteered to aid with sandbagging and have dispatched a crew to the city of Minto. Local residents are assisting neighbors and families with sandbagging and moving belongings in homes. Walsh County is currently working to deliver sand and bags to areas in need and continues to close roads as needed. The county is currently monitoring river conditions and working with Grafton and Minto to help meet their needs. The city of Grafton worked last night with a contractor to open up the McCloud Drain which carries water around the south side of the city. The also stockpiled sand in the city for possible sandbagging needs. Grafton also worked to close roads in the city that backed up with water. Those roads have since opened. The City of Park River secured two pumps from the community of Drayton and purchased two pumps from Acme Electric to help with the city lift stations. The city closed roads throughout the center of town and cut down part of a road on the east edge of town, to help water flow out of the South end of town. Rural Hoople, Rural Fordville, Rural Park River and City of Park River, City of Pisek, City of Minto, along with the rural area between Park River and Grafton all currently have or had sandbag operations. The Walsh County EOC was operated from noon through 3:00 a.m. on the 27 and 28 and reopened at 7:00 a.m. on the 28 and will remain open until conditions improve. The Walsh County Commission made a disaster declaration at noon on March 28, 2004.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Technical assistance, as well as help for road closure and sandbags resource identification, has been provided by state officials and the USACE.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None has been reported to the SOC at this time.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director